

I am a mere consumer. I am also a customer of Verizon Wireless. I have no other stake in this petition other than that of a consumer. The only reason I have knowledge of this petition is from an article I read in "The Philadelphia Inquirer" (Nov. 28, 2001). I feel it is very important for Verizon to be denied it's petition to drop the wireless number portability plan. I see two main reasons; A less competitive environment will be fostered, and increased number administration.

1. A less competitive environment will be fostered simply because consumers will be less likely to shop around for the best plan. Once this trend takes hold, it's inevitable that one or two of the strongest companies will initially sign a major part of the market. Once "signed", most consumers will not look to jump ship for obvious convenience reasons. As the market becomes more saturated, the smaller companies will not be able to stay afloat since their market (new consumers) shrinks. Once (virtually) monopolizing the market, prices will soar and service will decline.

2. Even though Verizon claims the opposite, there will be an increase in overall administration (by companies and government) if Verizon gets it's way. If I'm a savvy consumer, I will change providers every two years to ensure I pay the lowest rate possible. That means I will need a new number every two years. That will only exacerbate the country's need for more phone n